

**Serial No. 10/767,063****Atty. Doc. No. 2004P00322US****REMARKS**

Applicants have amended claims 1, 8, and 17. Thus, claims 1 – 20 are presented for examination. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of the pending claims in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

**Response to rejections under Section 102:****Claims 1, 2, 8, 10, 11, and 16:**

Claims 1, 2, 8, 10, 11, and 16 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Bethel (US 3,841,824). Examiner apparently reads Bethel as disclosing Applicants' claimed invention.

Applicants have amended claims 1 and 8 to include the additional limitation of **introducing a stable, field generated source of charged particles at the corona initiation source at a sharp contact point of an end of a fuel feed tube to increase a charged particle density** (see e.g. Applicants' specification, page 5 line 33 to page 6 line 2, page 6 lines 29 – 31, and item 30 in Figure 2). Bethel neither teaches nor suggests introducing a stable, field generated source of charged particles at the corona initiation source, at a sharp contact point of an end of a fuel feed tube to increase a charged particle density. Rather, Bethel teaches an insulated electrical conductor passing through a conduit and terminating at a corona discharge point (see e.g. Bethel, column 4, lines 29 – 33, and Figure 7).

**Claims 1 and 2:**

Claims 1 and 2 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by the Calcote et al. paper of the IDS. Examiner apparently reads Bethel as disclosing Applicants' claimed invention.

Applicants have amended claim 1 as noted above. The Calcote paper neither teaches nor discloses the limitation of **introducing a stable, field generated source of charged particles at the corona initiation source at a sharp contact point of an end of a fuel feed tube to increase a charged particle density**. Rather, Calcote et al. teaches placement of an electrode ring to impose an electric field on the flame and away from the burner (see e.g. Calcote et al. paper, page 26 and Figure 1).

**Serial No. 10/767,063****Atty. Doc. No. 2004P00322US**

Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the Section 102 rejection.

**Response to rejections under Section 103:**

Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, and 8 - 20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), the Examiner contending that these claims are unpatentable over Bethel (US 3,841,824) in view of any of Faulkner (US 5,303,554), Shekleton (5,040,371), and the Calcote et al. paper, and optionally in view of Poujade (US 3,035,412). Claims 1 - 20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), the Examiner contending that these claims are unpatentable over Bethel (US 3,841,824) in view of any of Faulkner (US 5,303,554), Shekleton (5,040,371), and the Calcote et al. paper, and optionally in view of Poujade (US 3,035,412), as applied above, and further in view of Wright (US 3,416,870). Claims 1 and 2 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), the Examiner contending that these claims are unpatentable over the Calcote et al. paper of the IDS. Claims 17 - 20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), the Examiner contending that these claims are unpatentable over Beyler et al. (US 4,023,351) in view of Poujade (US 3,035,412).

For the reasons discussed in connection with the section 102 rejection, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1 - 20 are patentable. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the Section 103 rejections.

**Serial No. 10/767,063****Atty. Doc. No. 2004P00322US****Conclusion**

For the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that the rejection set forth in the outstanding Office Action are inapplicable to the present claims. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider the objections and rejections and timely pass the application to allowance. Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this paper. The commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any appropriate fees due in connection with this paper, or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 19-2179.

Respectfully submitted,

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